

Message Text

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ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 EB-07 SP-02 ABF-01 PER-01 SS-15

/039 W

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R 040950Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3437

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, XF

SUBJ: MODE-AGRICULTURE/FAS PROPOSAL TO ASSIGN AN AGRICULTURAL
ATTACHE IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA BEGINNING FY 77

REF: STATE 181323

1. PROPOSALS SIMILAR TO REFTTEL HAVE BEEN BROACHED TO US FROM
TIME TO TIME ON PURELY INFORMAL BASIS DURING LAST SEVERAL YEARS.
EACH TIME OUR REACTION HAS BEEN THAT PERIOD VISITS BY USDA
REP, FRESH FROM US WITH LATEST DATA ON US FOOD AND AG PRODUCTS,
MARKETING TECHNIQUES AND OTHER TIMELY INFO OF INTEREST TO LOCAL
OUTLETS AND DEALERS, WERE MORE EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PROMOTING
SALES THAN ASSIGNMENT OF ATTACHE ON SCENE HERE BUT FAR FROM
MUCH BROADER COIGN OF VANTAGE BACK HOME.

2. NEVERTHELESS, USDA INSTINCT IN WANTING TO GO WHERE THE MONEY
IS MAKES SENSE AND WE PREPARED TO SUPPORT IDEA. WE DO NOT
FEEL STRONGLY ON LOCATION OF ATTACHE AS BETWEEN JIDDA AND KUWAIT.
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SAUDI ARABIA, OF COURSE, REPRESENTS THE BIGGEST MARKET,

AND CASE FOR JIDDA IS ESPECIALLY STRONG IF WE ANTICIPATE YEMEN BECOMING INCREASINGLY MORE IMPORTANT TO US AGRICULTURALLY. ON OTHERHAND GULF (AND EVEN GOOD PART OF SAUDI ARABIA) IS VERY ACCESSIBLE FROM KUWAIT, AND USDA'S RATIONALE FOR LOCATION IN KUWAIT IS SUSTAINABLE. ASSUME IRAQ IS COVERED FROM BEIRUT, BUT IF BAILIWICK OF PROPOSED AG ATTACHE WERE TO INCLUDE ITAQ (PERHAPS WORTH CONSIDERING), KUWAIT WOULD CLEARLY BE MOST CENTRAL H.Q.

3. WE SEE NO INSURMOUNTABLE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEM IN ESTABLISHING AG ATTACHE OFFICE IN KUWAIT WHENEVER DEPT/USDA WISHES. ESTABLISHING AG OFFICE ON COMPOUND WILL, HOWEVER, NECESSITATE RENOVATING ONE OF THE EXISTING STAFF APARTMENTS AND RELOCATING OCCUPANT, AS WELL AS FAS STAFF, ON ECONOMY.
STOLTZFUS

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